



VEE
Village Economic
Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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Introduction

The year 2021 for us was a year full of hope and ambitions for our children, their families, and their communities. Our aspirations and goals revolved around our main thematic areas: child sponsorship, food security, shelter, education, and health. The objectives for the year were as follows:

- Finding solutions to illiteracy and advocacy for early childhood education within our communities.
- Supporting our families through the provision of medical cover and overall holistic development of our communities.
- Addressing food insecurity within villages by empowering families through farming.
- Providing clean and safe water through water filtration systems, and boreholes among others.
- Promoting economic stability within households/ families through their small self-help groups.
- Building our brand and strong social identity through our digital presence.

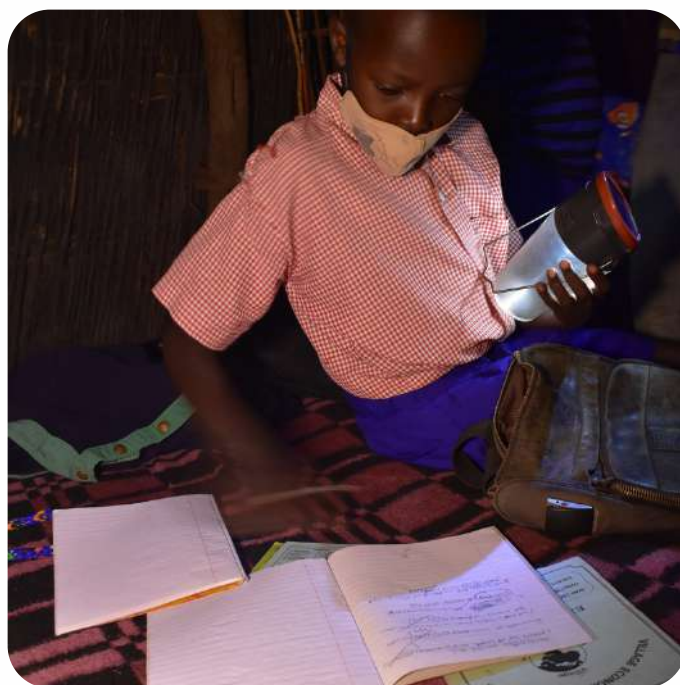
This report outlines how the year was in our different areas of operation following through our main thematic areas. It shows the different activities carried out under each, the impact created on our communities, as well as challenges encountered.

Child Sponsorship

We had a series of activities that started as early as January. In the month of January, we had a three-day field visit from 24th January to 26th January to assess the impact of the sponsorship program over the years. The main aim was to track and measure how child sponsorship has promoted quality education, good health, and economic stability.

During the visit, we were able to gather feedback and present it in a couple of videos as it had been requested.

The children identified from Osiligi area were Diana Ntuyoto (P146-14799) and Sankei Ntuyoto (P146-14819). They are still in our program and have gained quite a lot so far. They are both being raised in a polygamous home and have roles and responsibilities to play; for instance they milk goats each morning before heading to school. Before child sponsorship, they could stay home and continue with the chores without going to school. Both of them are beneficiaries of Osiligi Pre-School.



Sankei Ntuyoto doing his homework inside their manyatta

Through the preschool, the community has also benefited to a greater extent.

During this visit, we were also able to visit Sabato Nkaayio's family (P146-14937). Although we did not get to engage them deeply her mother was very grateful for the impact that we had made through the school. She was in the process of preparing Sabato and her siblings to head to school.



Sabato Nkaayio's Family

The next family visit was in Long'osua where we also identified two families to assess the impact of sponsorship. The two young sponsored children that we were able to identify in this area were Alice Nosotua (P146-15573) and Faith Timanoi (P146-14385). The main aim was to examine the growth since they joined the program, the impact of the Covid learning program, and how their families were fairing since they became part of our program.

Faith is a young girl aged twelve years. Her family includes her mother, father, and three siblings. Salome, Faith's mother, expressed the fears she had when the pandemic struck and schools had to be closed. Her children had to stay home since no learning was taking place. She could not be able to teach them as well as concentrate on her work. Salome is employed by V.E.E and also makes liquid soap for sale. When we rolled out the Covid learning program, Salome was very delighted and let her children attend the program. She says that her fears were reduced and she was happy that her children could now be able to continue learning. From the program, she has seen an improvement in her child. Faith has improved in her studies and her mom is pleased with her performance in her recent exam.

Alice Nosotua is seven years old. Her mother, Mary Siolol, was very pleased and happy that her daughter is able to go to school. This is an opportunity that she wished she had while growing up. Alice's mother would love to see her child go beyond her level of education. Alice was also a beneficiary of the Covid Learning Program at Long'oswa. Her mother had noted improvements in that she can be able to speak Kiswahili unlike before. The child sponsorship program has also helped them since they can are now benefiting from Village Economic Empowerment: spiritually, economically, and communally.

" The Covid learning program has really helped my child, she now knows Kiswahili unlike before." Alice Nosotua's Mother

Child Welfare

Over this period we were also been able to visit some of our children's families just to get to know how they were doing. Among the children that we were able to visit include Erustus Njugi (P145-14966), Brian Irungu (P145-15040), John Kago Huho (P145-14985), and Primrose Mwangi (P145-15013).

Although the visit was activity-based, we also got to catch up and know how they are fairing. They were so glad that they had gone back to school and continued learning as well as getting to see their friends after the long Covid break/holiday. They were very thankful for the Christmas presents that they had received in December 2020 as it helped them during their second term of school in January.



John, Brian & Primrose

P145-14250 Mary Njeri

We also visited Mary Njeri's (P145-14250) family whose mother had started a business and still runs it. She sells second-hand clothes in her area. Even though the pandemic affected her business in various ways; it is still up and running. Some of the challenges she faced were not being able to get additional stock for her business with the partial lockdown (she could not travel to Nairobi) that was imposed at the onset of the pandemic.

With the pandemic, the profit has also gone down but she has not given up on her business. Through the business, she is also able to support her family. The family had also not been able to buy the piece of land but were on course with this goal.

P144-15222 Tabitha Wamaitha

We lost Tabitha at 2.00 am on 17/09/2021. She was in Olkalau School for the disabled. From the narration of events. She was all right during the day (16/09/2021), attended her evening preps well, sang with the rest of the pupils, and prayed as they were going to sleep.

She started complaining in the middle of the night and was rushed to a nearby hospital but did not make it. She was buried on 21/09/2021.

We extended help to the family through our welfare support kitty. We were represented by Monica, our coordinator in Karangatha.

New Child Sponsorship Staff

With the community setbacks that we were having as an organization, there was a need to separate the Ilbisil region into different specific areas. The areas are Osiligi, Endapodapoi, Naibala, Namayana which are under Joel Memiri-our new coordinators, and Long'osua which is coordinated by Saitoti Sariamu & Damaris Leshin. The regions were divided according to the existing groups and each coordinator is in charge of four groups. Some of their roles and responsibilities are outlined below:

What does the role entail?

1. Be the link between the office and the community.
2. In charge of overseeing, communicating, and reporting all project happenings and operations within the areas of operations as assigned.
3. Be a brand ambassador of the organization to the community.
4. Enroll and enlighten the community on the different projects and programs.
5. Be accountable and responsible for all the tasks assigned.

Health and Medical Covers

With the understanding of how healthcare is expensive, especially for vulnerable families, we have been able to provide health insurance covers and medical support for families within our program areas. Elikana Gichoya (P144- 900) had an eye problem; he could not see words and drawings on the blackboard in school. He had difficulty in studying efficiently and needed spectacles. We shared the cost with his family and Elikana Gichoya got his spectacles and eye treatment. We were also able to support P144-15662 Lucy Wanjiru in getting spectacles; she had complained of an eye problem.

In addition, we also helped John Gacheru; who fell and hurt his lower limb and ribs.



Tabitha Wamaitha Karanja



P144-14900 Elikana Gichoya

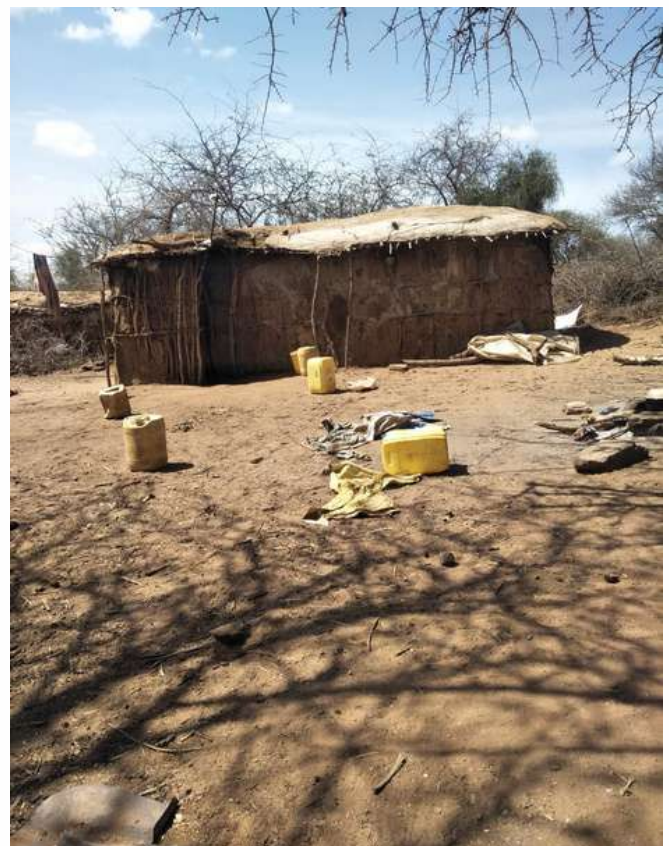
In insuring families, with one principal member and several beneficiaries; families are covered and can access medical services at selected hospitals without strain. From January to December; we have been able to pay NHIF for 48 families in Kajiado. The sponsor children are:

- P146-14939 Parnakaya Sikao
- P146-14794 Abel Kayionke
- P146-14393 Kispaa Naipaa
- P146-14409 Kisimira Shungeya
- P146-14959 Lemein Mutunkei
- P146-14353 Michael Tirati
- P146-14848 Abigael Kudate
- P146-14385 Faith Timanoi
- P146-14416 Malit Nkunkat
- P146-14431 Paul Tonkei
- P146-14388 Keesoi Oltus
- P146-14415 Koniai Nkalai
- P146-14378 Samperu Meitiaki
- P146-14390 James Lantei Lupempe
- P146-14387 Lakanai Tipape
- P146-14375 Tiata Kiriu
- P146-14862 Ngeteu Smart
- P146-14854 Lengonene Kureko
- P146-14419 Samuel Nyawa
- P146-14381 Nangenoi Nkaramatisho
- P146-14368 Kashimiri Siolol
- P146-14389 Brian Kasaine
- P146-14348 Annah Piyote
- P146-14855 Mopiyian Kutiti
- P146-14392 Naisesoi Shekeine
- P146-14572 Yialle Matiko
- P146-14809 Moses Yiale Sayo
- P146-14331 Paul Tonkei
- P146-14354 Parshwa Sayo
- P146-14850 Jane Nadupoio
- P146-14404 Nenoita Supuk
- P146-14865 Rebecca Lantoo
- P146-14366 Matampash Tumate
- P146-Naniyo Kurerei
- P146-14337 Mariamu Sikabai
- P146-14400 Ntiya Nchoke
- P146-14407 Rampei Sikao
- P146-14813 Nchutuk Kipila
- P146-14360 Kurito Tagol

Evaluation and Assessment- Child Sponsorship

In November 2021, we conducted a second assessment in Ilbisil Area to evaluate the situation and the impact of child sponsorship in the area. It was to show how the sponsorship program has impacted the different areas in Ilbisil, Kajiado County. The assessment was conducted in different households interviewing them on how they had benefited in our different thematic areas such as education, shelter, medical care, access to water, and different types of training that have had an impact on their lives. From the data that we were able to collect, the community in the four areas was very grateful for the benefits that they had experienced over the years. However, there are a few recommendations /suggestions that would ensure that their lives are improved. They are as follows:

1. Drilling of more boreholes in areas away from Longosua that is Namayana, Naibala, Osiligo, and Endapodapoi to ensure access to water.
2. Build a nursery (early childhood centre) school near Namayana and Naibala and a full primary school in Osiligi to ensure that children do not walk for long distances to get to school as well as enhance high transition rates.
3. To have a hospital/ healthcare center that is near them so as not to walk for long to access healthcare.
4. Increased entrepreneurial support and training for women to empower them economically.



Some of the homesteads that we got to interview during the evaluation

Sharing Joy with our children

Throughout the year, we were able to meet some of our sponsored children in their homes but not all of them. In December 2021, we convened in all our three areas together with all of our children in order to share the joy during the festivities. We were able to hold parties and coupled it up with letter writing and photo-taking sessions.

From the planning stage, we involved the community in identifying and curating specific gifts for each of our children in their areas. The exercise underwent different stages of mainly planning and implementation. The planning phase entailed training the community members on letter writing and outlining the procedures to be followed during the exercise. We had a total of 10 community members from Ilbisil & Kinari and 5 community members in Karangatha. These members were trained and passed on the information to other community members that were to help in letter writing.

The decisions on which gifts to be bought was heavily contributed by the community board. To help with the letter-writing activity we also identified community members to help the children in their groups. In Kinale & Karangatha, we bought blankets for each family and books for each of our sponsor children. Ilbisil region was experiencing drought at the time and their gift was heavily influenced by the effect of drought. Their gift for this area was bags of maize and beans as well exercise books for each of our children. Each of our areas had a specific date set for the exercise.



Photos from the activities in December



Ilbisil food donation

Loss in families

On 18th February, Morinke Lemarpe (P146-14941) lost his father. The cause of death was not clear but we sent our field coordinator, Jeremiah Sariamtu to console the family. Lermape is from the Osiligi community and attends Osiligi Pre-school.

On 18th March, P146-14378-Samperu Mentiaki (9 years) lost his father in Kitengela. His father was a watchman and was attacked while on duty (night shift). We made a trip to console the family and lend a hand during that difficult time. We bought food for them to be shared on the homestead.

In November 2021, one of our sponsor children P144-14919 Esther Nduta lost her father. Her father fell on the road. We were able to send Monicah- our coordinator in Karangatha, to console the family and pass our condolences and welfare package of KES 5,000 to the family.

Agriculture- Greenhouse Project

Starting January 2021, a lot of progress has been made. A new agronomist was brought on board, and she helped us return the greenhouses back to order after the mismanagement that had been done by her predecessor. She made new greenhouse beds and mobilized women in the area to help her, as they learned how to apply manure and plant the seedlings.

We also made purchases for the steel tank stands and water tanks, in readiness for the installation of the irrigation kits at the beneficiaries' homesteads. They were constructed, bought, and delivered to the site. (50 in number) The shade nets were also purchased to be used as crop cover in the homestead plots where they will be planting their crops.



Greenhouse Preparation process



Shade Nets

The sponsor children whose families that benefited from the agricultural, nutrition and hygiene training are:

- P146-14143 Ntipiti Lengete
- P146-14422 Nasoi Lemomo
- P146-14379 Nkaarsis Sariamu
- P146-14393 Kispan Naipaa
- P146-14391 Musa Tinkoine
- P146-14961 Leyian Shina
- P146-14959 Lemein Mutunkei
- P146-14341 Ikonet Ololepo
- P146-14392 Naisesoi Shekeine
- P146-14848 Abigaël Kudate
- P146-14409 Kishimir Shungea
- P146-14944 Naserian Lemperua
- P146-14949 Moitanik Saibulu
- P146-14854 Lengonene Kureko
- P146-14361 Kipuri Lesianon
- P146-14381 Nangenoi Nkaramatisho
- P146-14390 James Lantei Lupempe
- P146-14389 Brian Kasaine
- P146-14340 Samson Teku Koinanke
- P146-14397 Sarah Mokinyo
- P146-14855 Mopiyian Kutiti
- P146-14339 Tokorei Kasaine
- P146-14404 Nenoita Supuk
- P146-14865 Rebecca Lantoo
- P146-14366 Matampash Tumate
- P146-Naniyo Kurerei
- P146-14343 Jeremiah Kelo
- P146-14385 Faith Timanoi
- P146-14337 Mariamu Sikabai
- P146-14426 Siteiya Solitei
- P146-14400 Ntiya Nchoke
- P146-14407 Rampei Sikao
- P146-14813 Nchutuk Kipila
- P146-14360 Kurito Tagol
- P146-14804 Lemperua Isaiah
- P146-14816 Reginah Nkisilo
- P146-14943 Nkaninin Kereto
- P146-14372 Metit Nkooma
- P146-15573 Alice Nosotua
- P146-1414936 Gideon Kirasin

The beneficiaries underwent mandatory pieces of training in agriculture, hygiene, and nutrition. The agricultural training included bed preparations, planting, manure, and fertilizer application, supervision, and identification of diseases among other lessons. The training was compiled to cover all those topics in a span of 4 weeks, three days a week.

Nutrition and hygiene training began in December 2020 and rolled over to 2021. The training aimed at improving cleanliness, showing beneficiaries how to wash hands, dispose of waste, and build toilets, and emphasized their importance. It also aimed at training them on how to attain a balanced diet in their foods among other lessons. The feedback from the community on the training was amazing. The women who've attended the training have been making very huge differences in their homes.

We were also able to begin the construction of the storage and sorting house facility. These benefits trickle down to our sponsored children.

Digital Presence and Branding

In 2021, we embarked on building our brand and leveling up our digital appearance and strategy. One of our goals was to ensure that our online presence is eye-catching and pleasant at the same time. We completed the development of our website and safely hosted it.

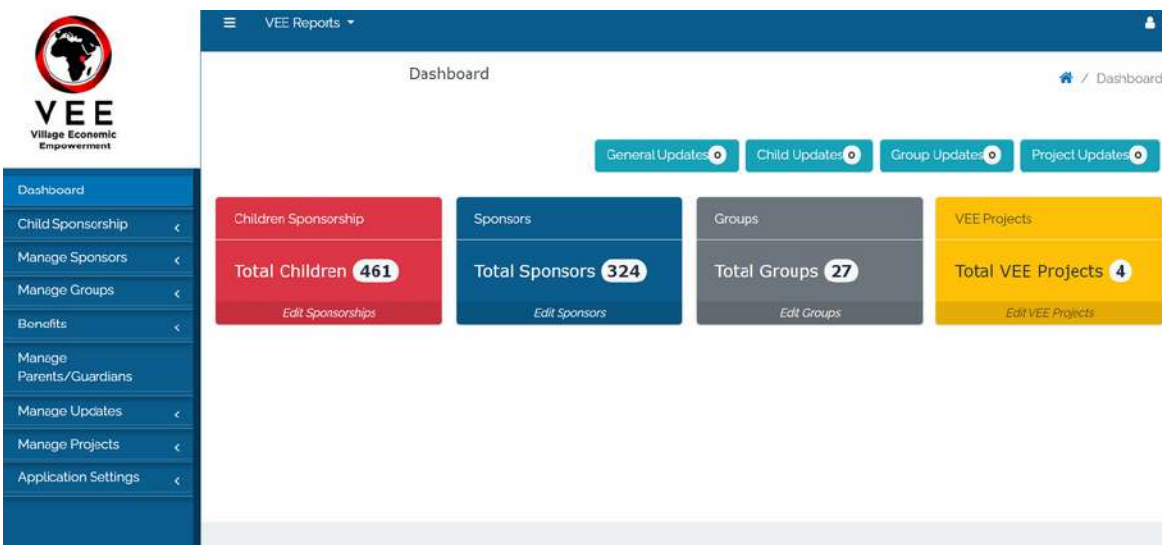
The next phase in building our digital presence is the portal revamp, a project that we completed by the end of the year.

The following form some of the reasons for revamping our digital presence:

- Document our success stories and in the long run show impact in all our pillars of empowerment.
- Increase our member engagement with the website is our first line of communication to new and current donors and volunteers.
- Creating responsive designs for our portal and website to enhance the user experience.
- Boost our search visibility in organic searches and align it with our online/social strategy



VEE Kenya website



VEE Kenya portal

Fundraising Campaign

In September 2021, we were able to run a campaign on the Global Giving Fund platform. The fundraising initiative was mainly to help the children and community at Osiligi Pre-school. Our plan was to build six classrooms, a library facility, and provide a rich supply of learning materials such as desks, books, teaching aid, and critical literacy support services to over 300 children from the community in Osiligi village, Kenya. At the end of the Accelerator Program; we were able to raise \$ 442.

Join us raise \$50,000 to build a school in a Maasai village (Osiligi) , Kenya Your generosity will impact 300 children

Village Economic Empowerment plans to build six classrooms, a library facility, provide learning materials such as desks, books, teaching aid and essential literacy support.



- \$10- books & stationery
- \$20- will buy textbooks.
- \$50- buy a desk for 2 children
- \$120- will pay the teaching staff.
- \$2900- will build school library
- \$3600- will build one classroom

Children in Osiligi Area have to walk for about 10km to get to schools and face the danger of being attacked by wild animals (Elephants).

The campaign ends on 30th September 2021

Donate mobile money  **Pay Bill: 891300**
Account: GG53333

To donate through  **Global giving fund link**
<https://gofundme.com/53333>



Self Help Groups

This year(2021) we planned to achieve more, that is by ensuring that our self-help groups can easily access quality farm inputs, have farms to farm, provide a market for their produce and also ensure that they have functional management structures.

In February 2021 we held our annual meeting with the groups in Kinale and Karangatha. The agenda of the meeting was to assess the progress of the groups and evaluate their achievements and challenges. It was noted that most groups didn't have land to farm and that it was too expensive for them to lease the land and buy the farm inputs.

Due to this challenge the organization leased a 1/2 an acre of the land ¼ in Kinale and ¼ in Karangatha, this land was subdivided into groups in Kinale and Karangatha that didn't have land. In Kinale, groups that got the land are; the Bethlehem self-help group, Joppa self-help group, Judea self-help group, and Jerusalem self-help group. The groups that were given land in Karangatha are; the Maryland self-help group, Arizona self-help group, and Texas self-help group.

Partnering with the community

In the past year, we conducted management and community meetings in the project areas. The meetings' objectives were to iron out the community expectations and discuss a way forward as we continue working together with them. The first tier of meetings started with holding discussions with group leaders from the different self-help groups. From these, the leaders from each of our project areas were able to select a few members who would represent them and their interests on the community board. Some of the agreements from these meetings were as follows:

1. Village Economic Empowerment and the communities will work together to enhance the vision of Village Economic Empowerment in these regions.
2. The community will form a board that will work with the leadership of Village Economic Empowerment, whose mandate will be to communicate the vision laid by Village Economic Empowerment.
3. The board will consist of a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 7 members that will be selected after every two years. The leader of the board will be the Chair and will occupy the seat for two terms not exceeding 4 years accumulatively.
4. The board will select its executive members 3 in number that will be in charge of directly communicating with Village Economic Empowerment leadership on matters involving the community.
5. Each and every group will save part of their income to VILSA Sacco and VEE will also contribute towards that by saving for them KES 3,000 each month in the Sacco.

Partnering through Memoranda of Understanding

The second tier of meetings in a bid to partner with the communities was held with the specific community board members. The discussions led to the signing of memoranda of understanding with the board members. The memorandum of understanding outlined:

- The mandate and affirmations
- The structure outlines the relations between the organization and the community.
- Project Management
- Project reports and finances
- Conflict resolution
- Fundraising

Partner's Visit (ora-Kinderhilfe)

In August 2021, we were visited by our partners; Carmen, Tim, and Markus. The aim of the visit was to check the progress of the projects in all our project areas.

During the visit, we held community meetings with the board members in the project areas, visited project farms and greenhouse, and specific sponsor families.

groups in Kinale and Karangatha. The identified sponsor families were chosen due to their vulnerability. We were able to visit a total of six families in the three areas.

The visit ended with a strategic meeting to discuss the specific project visits and formulate the way forward.



Photos from the partner's visit

Challenges Encountered

In Ilbisil, we experienced a lot of community hostility and resistance from the community members that led to various delays in the project implementation. In a bid to resolve the challenge, we held meetings and an agreement reached as well as a community board was enacted.

In Kinale and Karangatha, we also encountered resistance among members with regard to farming in groups. We applied a similar approach to forming community boards in the areas and training them on our approach to development in the coming year. We have also mitigated this by giving enough information and encouraging them to consult and ask questions hence enabling us to find solutions and answers to their concerns.

Conclusion

We have learned a lot in the past year with regard to the projects. We might have not been able to fully accomplish our objectives for the year but were on the course this year.

As a way forward, we aim to better what we did in 2021. We look forward to engaging the community and holding trainer of trainer (ToT) pieces of training to enhance community awareness of our concept of empowerment. Our aim with this is to spread the word widely on our model of empowerment, deal with the current community resistance, and enhance project implementation. In empowering our communities, we aim to do more through VILSA Sacco by educating our members on the importance and need for savings.